

C. Remarks

Claim 2 is the only claim remaining in the subject application, and it has been rewritten in independent form based on cancelled claim 1 and on, for example, Fig. 1B. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of claim 2 is expressly requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 11-14, 19-23, 48, 50 and 61-63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112 and 132, for allegedly introducing new matter, allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement and being allegedly indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner found the phrase regarding the "boundary surface" to be new matter and confusing.

While Applicants disagree with the Examiner, in order to expedite prosecution, the phrase "boundary surface" originally found in claim 1 has been replaced in rewritten claim 2 with --a surface of the first portion, which said surface faces the second portion--. Such a surface is clearly shown in, for example, Fig. 1B and is discussed, for example, in the specification at page 9, lines 9-25. Since all other rejected claims have been cancelled, this rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 11-14, 20, 21, 22, 48, 50 and 61-63 stand been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,177,181 (Hamada). While Applicants disagree with the Examiner, solely to expedite prosecution, claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 11-14, 20, 21, 22, 48, 50 and 61-63 have been cancelled. Applicants intend to pursue these claims in a continuation application.

The Examiner stated in the Office Action that if claim 2 is rewritten in independent form, it should be allowed. Since claim 2 has been so rewritten, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 should now be allowed.

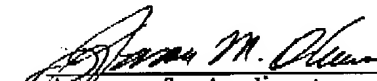
Applicants submit that all issues in this case have been resolved. However, if the Examiner believes otherwise, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants'

undersigned attorney by telephone before issuing another action on the merits. The Examiner is authorized to make formal changes in the specification and claim 2, which changes do not affect the scope of the claimed invention, via an Examiner's Amendment in order to expedite issuance.

Wherefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and passage to issue of the present case.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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